CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A network management connectivity verification framework comprising:

~~a.~~ a connectivity verification server ~~performing~~ that performs unattended connectivity verification jobs; and

~~b.~~ a connectivity verification application for:

defining connectivity verification jobs,

configuring the connectivity verification server accordingly,

displaying connectivity verification results, ~~and~~

specifying, by a user, at least one connectivity verification threshold for comparison to the connectivity verification results, and

displaying and highlighting Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects affected by an alarm.

2. (Original) A connectivity verification framework claimed in claim 1, wherein the connectivity verification jobs are scheduled and the connectivity verification server performs scheduled connectivity verification.

3. (Currently Amended) A connectivity verification framework claimed in claim 1, wherein the connectivity verification application further ~~providing~~ provides a display of connectivity verification results.

4. (Currently Amended) A connectivity verification framework claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ results of each connectivity verification job may be compared against a connectivity profile, a deviation from the connectivity profile being used to raise an alarm.

5. (Original) A connectivity verification framework claimed in claim 3, wherein the connectivity verification results, including alarm information, are further used to generate a network map displaying selected connectivity verification results.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a network connectivity verification test, comprising steps of:

~~a.~~ defining a connectivity verification job;

~~b.~~ configuring a connectivity verification server to perform the connectivity verification job;

~~c.~~ displaying connectivity verification results; ~~and~~

~~d.~~ specifying, by a user, at least one connectivity verification threshold for comparison to the connectivity verification results; and

displaying and highlighting Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects affected by an alarm.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 6, wherein defining the connectivity verification job further comprises steps of:

~~a.~~ ——selecting via an NMS user interface, a pair of source and destination IP objects between which connectivity is to be verified; and

~~b.~~ ——specifying a connectivity verification schedule.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 6, wherein specifying the at least one connectivity verification threshold further comprises specifying a threshold for at least one of round trip delay, jitter, and packet loss.

10. (Original) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 7, wherein a selected IP object include one of a router, IP interface, and IP address.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 7, wherein the pair of source and destination IP objects is selected ~~selecting~~ from one of an IP link, an LSP, and a VPN.

12. (Original) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 6, wherein defining the connectivity verification job further comprises a step of: configuring a connectivity verification parameter including one of a number of ping commands to issue, a ping packet size, ping data fill pattern, a time to wait for response, and a type of service.

13. (Original) The method of creating a network connectivity verification test claimed in claim 6, wherein defining the connectivity verification job further comprises a step of: configuring a connectivity verification parameter including one of a number of traceroute commands to issue, a traceroute packet size, traceroute packet data fill pattern, a time to wait for response, and a type of service.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a network connectivity verification in a network management context comprising steps of:

~~a.~~ performing scheduled connectivity verification;

~~b.~~ comparing a connectivity verification result with a connectivity verification threshold, said connectivity verification threshold specified by a user; ~~and~~

~~c.~~ raising an alarm if the connectivity verification result has reached the connectivity verification threshold; and

displaying and highlighting Layer-2 and Layer-3 objects affected by an alarm.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 14, further comprising a step of~~: storing~~ storing a connectivity verification job on a computer readable medium for subsequent access and execution.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 14, further comprising a step of~~: highlighting~~ highlighting at least one IP object based on one of a connectivity verification job and a connectivity verification result.

17. (Original) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 16, wherein a highlighted object is one of an OSI Layer 2 and OSI Layer 3 object.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 14, wherein performing scheduled connectivity verification ~~the method~~ further ~~comprising~~ comprises a step of~~: periodically~~ periodically executing connectivity verification tests.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 14, wherein performing scheduled connectivity verification ~~the method~~ further ~~comprising~~ comprises a step of~~: issuing~~ issuing at least one ~~a one~~ of a ping command and traceroute command.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of performing a network connectivity verification claimed in claim 14, further comprising a step of: ~~storing~~ storing historical connectivity verification results on a computer readable medium for subsequent access.